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SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Assistance to Yemen

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 47/179 of 22 December 1992 entitled "Assistance to Yemen" the General Assembly, noting the challenges facing Yemen as a result of unification, the return of Yemeni expatriates, the continuous flow of refugees from the Horn of Africa and recent natural disasters, called upon Governments, United Nations organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to assist the Government of Yemen in order to enable it to meet those challenges. In addition, it requested that the Secretary-General submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

II. MOBILIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

A. Emergency recovery programme

2. Following the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait and to deal with the returnee needs ranging from infrastructure to employment creation, the World Bank and the Government, together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other United Nations system agencies, developed a \$US 245 million multi-sectoral emergency recovery programme. The programme was designed to cover the country's needs in a wide range of sectors including road construction, education, agriculture and housing.

* A/48/150 and Corr.1.

3. To date, the World Bank has mobilized \$60 million in credits and grants for an emergency recovery project, including \$33 million from the World Bank/IDA, \$15 million from USAID and \$4.5 million from Germany. UNDP provided \$400,000 from the Special Programme Resources for supporting countries affected by the crisis in order to assist the Government's Management Unit, which is coordinating the project.

4. Activities targeted to programme objectives by UNCDF, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Netherlands and others bring total funds available for this programme to \$86 million. This leaves a funding gap of \$159 million to fully implement the programme. In the meantime, 55 per cent of World Bank/IDA funds and 90 per cent of total German funds have been disbursed to date.

B. Responses of United Nations system bodies

1. United Nations Children's Fund

5. UNICEF responded to the country's emergency needs in the following particular areas:

(a) Returnees crisis: In response to a government appeal in December 1990 for emergency relief assistance, the Executive Director of UNICEF approved the release of \$US 160,000 from the Emergency Reserve Fund. These funds were used to procure and airfreight 14 tonnes of emergency health and drug kits to Yemen in support of relief operations in the Tihama region. A subsequent release of \$US 100,000 from the Emergency Relief Fund was approved in January 1991 to procure vaccines and support field operations.

(b) Cholera control: At the request of the Government, UNICEF airfreighted a consignment of air medical supplies worth \$22,000 into the country.

(c) Somali refugees: During the emergency phase of the big influx of refugees, UNICEF provided milk and food to the children camped on the beach through Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and the Red Crescent. Support was also provided to immunize the younger children against measles and to establish ORT Unit.

2. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

6. Although not able to finance any activities directly related to the returnees from its own resources, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has actively participated in the formulation of the emergency recovery programme, which is complementary to the FAO programme objectives. Moreover, FAO participated in the formulation of the UNDP-coordinated Pilot Resettlement Tihama project.

7. More generally, and as part of its effort to help the Government meet these challenges, the FAO programme objectives have been redefined in collaboration with the Government to focus on three primary development problems: (a) land and water resources conservation and development, including forestry, land use

planning, watershed management etc.; (b) establishment of suitable production systems for livestock and fodder, production of crops etc.; and (c) improvement of primary support services, particularly for small holder producers, in order to establish effective linkages between national research and extension systems.

3. United Nations Development Programme

8. Apart from its contribution to the emergency recovery programme, UNDP has been involved in providing assistance to Yemen in a number of fields, most important of which are the following:

(a) The Tihama Resettlement Project for the returnees: Together with FAO, UNDP produced an initial draft for a project whose goal is to assist in the integration of the Yemeni returnees into Yemen's society through their resettlement into the rural communities, thus enabling them to maintain sustainable employment and productivity. The proposed project will allow for the utilization by the returnees of Government-selected agricultural land for their sustainable employment. Moreover, the project will provide returnees with housing, training in agriculture, animal production, cropping, and handicrafts for women, in addition to providing education, health, and veterinary services. The project which has a total budget over \$5 million, of which about \$1.5 million will be provided by UNDP, aims at benefiting the returnees population in the Tihama region. Mobilization of additional donor funds is under way.

(b) Somali Refugees: UNDP played a central coordinating role during the refugee crisis in mobilizing direct assistance from United Nations agencies to meet some of the needs of the refugees as they have been assessed and identified by UNHCR.

(c) Management development: In response to the country's needs following unification, UNDP has identified "Management development" as one of the four areas of concentration of its First Country Programme. To date, the organization has fielded two missions, the purpose of which was to undertake a country-wide assessment of management development bottle-necks, and to propose a comprehensive programme of technical assistance to improve the country's management of its various resources, including human resources. To date, \$1.5 million is earmarked for a number of projects that are currently under design to be implemented following the reorganization of government administration in the post-election period.

(d) Human development: As part of the country programme's area of concentration on human development, UNDP has emphasized the sector of vocational training which will focus on improving the country's capacity for vocational training with the aim of substantially benefitting the returnees, as part of an overall improvement in the employment situation in the country. The UNDP field office has already implemented a TSS-1 exercise for developing a programme for that particular sector.

4. World Food Programme

9. The World Food Programme (WFP) has approved the following two projects:

(a) Emergency operation Yemen 49564 "Assistance to Ethiopian and Somali refugees" valued at \$260,000 for 6,000 refugees over a period of six months (20 February to 17 August 1992);

(b) Emergency operation Yemen 4954 Expansion "Assistance to Ethiopian and Somali refugees" valued at \$1,381,957 for 25,000 refugees over a period of six months (additional resources have been mobilized from Italy, Germany, France and Oman).

10. WFP fielded a mission to Yemen from end May to mid-June 1993 to appraise a project Yemen 2694 Expansion II "Assistance to health and social sectors". The project's estimated cost to WFP is \$22,264,700 and its duration is three years. Under this project, it is proposed that about 12,000 returnees will be trained in various vocational skills including carpentry, plumbing, masonry, electrical and handicraft training.

11. Once operational, WFP has agreed in principle to provide assistance (\$723,000 for 19 months) under the emergency recovery programme for Yemeni returnees to the following components by incorporating the relevant activities in its ongoing projects: (a) Tihama resettlement project for returnees and (b) construction of feeder and secondary roads.

12. Returnees and their families have the opportunity to benefit in their respective areas from the following ongoing WFP-assisted projects in the country:

(a) Project Yemen 4695 "Assistance for primary education";

(b) Project Yemen 4788 "Development of rural community infrastructure";

(c) Project Yemen 2694 "Assistance to health care units, hospitals and social centres" (in the northern region of the country);

(d) Project 2453 Expansion III "Assistance to MCH (maternal and child health) centres;

(e) Soil and water conservation (southern region).

5. United Nations Population Fund

13. The response of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to the country's situation in the aftermath of the Crisis concentrated on those issues which fall within the Fund's mandate including the socio-economic, demographic and henceforth educational, health and environmental consequences of the Crisis.

14. UNFPA funded a national workshop to discuss the socio-economic and demographic consequences of the problem of the returnees and to help planners and decision-makers to identify the most effective ways for addressing the

situation. The workshop was organized in collaboration with the Yemeni Centre for Studies and Research in Sana'a. Key ministries participated in the workshop and contributed in the different fields of health, education, housing, trade industries etc.

15. Following the workshop, UNFPA participated in a demographic field survey in the main concentration areas of the returnees (Hodeidah and Hadramout). The survey was implemented under one of the UNFPA-funded projects, YEM/87/P04, in collaboration with the Central Statistical office. Findings and results of that survey provided the bench-mark for the preparations of the first National Population Conference (October 1991) as well as the National Population Strategy, with respect to the returnees, immigration and the labour force at large.

16. A sub-contract was signed with the Ministry of Immigrants Affairs to undertake further socio-economic and demographic field surveys to analyse the demographic aspects of the returnees after one year of settlement.

17. During the formulation of the UNFPA country programme (1992-1996) the problem of the returnees was taken into consideration. Accordingly the area of Maternal/Child Health and Family Planning was given a priority in the distribution of the programme resources to meet the new demands in such an important area. Some projects are already approved with the Ministry of Health and the Yemen Family Care Association. Other projects are under way in terms of formulation and/or approval.

18. The Fund's contribution and assistance to the 1994 National Population and Housing Census is a major activity under the new country programme, the importance of which is evident. The census will be the first to be conducted country-wide covering all regions of the country.
